



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

four younger men. The work of compiling such a record as this is a great labor, but is a most useful task, and the results are a great boon to those situated away from libraries. To such the purchase of the Record is earnestly commended. It is published by Mr. J. Van Voorst, Paternoster row, London.

THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION CHECK-LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.¹—This catalogue of North American birds, as the latest issued, is the most complete, and will be a useful work of reference to ornithologists. The volume also contains a digest of rules of nomenclature adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union. There has always been a large proportion of authors of works on birds with literary rather than scientific tastes, so that the conclusions of an ornithologists' union will require careful scrutiny on the part of the scientific investigator. The danger from the side of letters is the subordination of the true interests of scientific research to red tape and literary archæology. The way to do this is to excuse authors from giving definitions to the new words they introduce, and so to open wide the doors to amateurism and its attendant confusion and redundancy. We are glad to observe that the new code agrees with the old ones in requiring that new generic names shall be defined in order to be adopted. But a few pages later the code contradicts itself by saying that when an author describes a new species which belongs to a new genus, it is not necessary to give a separate description of the genus, although a new generic name may be proposed. The code on this point therefore appears to us to be without authority either way, and we have to rest on the older codes, which require definitions in all cases. Nor do we find the code clear as to the necessity of furnishing definitions for divisions of higher rank.

Another objection we find is that it requires the use of an old specific name when the generic name later proposed is identical with it. Such names are really mononomial, and no more to be adopted than quadrinomial ones. The question is, however, rather one of taste, than of any serious moment.

Apart from these points we concur heartily in the rules of the code.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

Lydekker, R.—Note on the zoölogical position of the genus *Microchoerus*. Both from the Quart. Jour. Geol. Soc., 1885. All from the author.

Cook, G. H.—Annual report of the State geologist of New Jersey, 1885. From the author.

Selwyn, A. R. C.—Summary report of the operations of Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada to 31st Dec., 1885. From the author.

Bureau of Education.—Report of the Commissioner of Education, 1883-'84. From the department.

¹New York, American Ornithologists' Union. 1886, 8vo, pp. 392. For sale by L. S. Foster, 35 Pine street, New York city. \$3.

- Baird, S. F.*—Annual report of the Smithsonian Institution, 1883. From the department.
- Hall, Jas.*—Thirty-eighth annual report on the N. Y. State Museum of Natural History. From the director.
- Also the 33d, 34th, 35th, 36th and 37th reports of the same museum.
- Natural history of New York. Palæontology. Vol. v. Part I. Lamellibranchiata. II. Text and plates. From the author.
- Baur, G.*—Historische Bemerkungen. A. d. Monatssch. f. Anat. u. Histol., 1886.
- The proatlas, atlas and axis of the Crocodilia.
- The oldest tarsus.
- The intercentrum of living Reptilia. These three Amer. Naturalist extras, 1886.
- W. K. Parker's Bemerkungen über Archæopteryx, 1864, etc. Sp. Abd. a. d. Zool. Anzeiger, No. 216, 1886.
- Die älteste Tarsus (Archæosaurus). From the same.
- H. Professor K. Bardeleben's Bemerkungen über *Centetes madagascariensis*. Sep. Abd. a. d. Zool. Anzeiger, No. 220, 1886.
- Die zwei Centralia im Carpus von Sphenodon u. d. Wirbel v. Sphenodon u. *Gecko verticillatus*. From the same, No. 219, 1886. All from the author.
- Eudes-Deslongchamps, E.*—Notice sur Th. Davidson. Caen, 1886. From the author.
- Becker, G. F.*—A theorem of maximum dissipativity.
- A new law of thermo-chemistry. Ext. Amer. Jour. of Science, Feb., 1886. From the author.
- Notes on the stratigraphy of California. Bull. U. S. Geol. Surv., No. 19, 1885. From the department.
- Albrecht, —*—Ueber die Wirbelkörperpiciphysen und Wirbelkörpergelenke zwischen dem Epistropheus, Atlas und Occipitale der Säugethiere. Kopenhagen, 1884.
- Ueber die vier Zwischenkiefer, das Quadratum, etc. Ext. des Comptes rendus la 8me session du Cong. per. internat. d. sci. med. Both from the author.
- James, J. F.*—Cephalopoda of the Cincinnati group. Ext. Jour. Cincin. Soc. Nat. Hist., Jan., 1886. From the author.
- White, C. A.*—Notes on the Mesozoic and Cenozoic palæontology of California. Bull. U. S. Geol. Survey, No. 15, 1885.
- On marine Eocene, fresh-water Miocene and other fossil Mollusca of North America. Do. Bull. No. 18.
- On new Cretaceous fossils from California. Do. Bull. No. 22, 1885. All from the department.
- Clarke, J. M.*—On the higher Devonian faunas of Ontario county, N. Y. Bull. U. S. Geol. Surv., No. 16, 1885.
- Hague, A., and Iddings, J. P.*—On the development of crystallization in the igneous rocks of Washoe, Nev. Bull. U. S. Geol. Surv., No. 17. From the department.
- Cross, W., Hillebrand, W. F.*—Contributions to the mineralogy of the Rocky mountains. Bull. U. S. Geol. Surv., No. 20, 1885. From the department.
- Willis, B.*—The lignites of the Great Sioux reservation. Bull. No. 21, U. S. Geol. Surv., 1885. From the author.
- Fritsch, K. v.*—Das Pliocän im Thalgebiete der zahmen Gera in Thüringen. Sep. Abd. a. d. Jahrbuch d. k. preus. geol. Landesanstalt f. 1884.
- Carl Ritter's Zeichnungen des Lophiskos a. d. Nea Kaiwani, Santorin, 1885. From the author.
- Irving, R. D., and Chamberlin, T. C.*—Observations on the junction between the eastern sandstone and the Keweenaw series on Keweenaw point, Lake Superior. Bull. U. S. Geol. Surv., No. 23, 1885. From the department.
- White, C. E.*—An answer to Dr. Keen's address entitled "Our recent debts to vivisection." Phila., 1886. From the author.
- Mayer, P.*—Zoologischer Jahresbericht für 1884. Tunicata, Vertebrata. Berlin, 1886. From the editor.

Powell, J. W.—Fifth annual report of the U. S. Geol. Surv., 1885. From the department.

Geinitz, H. B.—Ueber Palmacites. Abd. d. Isis, 1883.

—Geognostische Excursion nach Dippoldiswalde, 30 Juli, 1885. Both from the author.

Haddon, A. C.—Preliminary report on the fauna of Dublin bay.

—Note on the blastodermic vesicle of mammals.

—Note on *Halcampa chrysanthellum* Peach. All rep. from the Sci. Proc. Roy. Dub. Soc., 1885.

—Recent contributions to the marine invertebrate fauna of Ireland. Reprint from The Zoölogist, Jan., 1886. All from the author.

Putnam, F. W.—On jadeite ornaments from Central America. Ext. Proc. Mass. Hist. Soc., 1886. From the author.

—:O:—

GENERAL NOTES.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.¹

ASIA.—*Railway Projects in the Shan Country.*—Mr. Holt Hallett states that the most practicable line for a railway in Indo-China, to connect India with that country, is up the valleys of the Meh Ping and Meh Wung, tributaries of the Meh Nam, to Kiang Hsen, on the Meh Kong. At Raheng this line would be joined by another from Maulmein, at the mouth of the Salween, in British Burmah. North of Kiang Hsen the railway would be produced along the Meh Kong valley to Kiang Hung, fifty miles from the Chinese town of Ssumao. By taking this route the mass of mountains lying east of the Irawadi is avoided.

The Burmese Shan States east of the Irawadi are believed to contain a million to a million and a half of inhabitants; the Siamese Shan States about two and a half millions, while the Meh Nam valley, south of the latter, has about three and a half millions.

The Shans are described as a cultivated people, free from caste, industrious and energetic, hospitable and frank toward strangers, eager for free trade, and of great capacity as petty traders. The hill-tribes are a hard-working, manly people, good agriculturists and handicraftsmen, great growers of cotton, tobacco, indigo and tea, and extensive breeders of cattle.

There are two races of Lua or Lawa, one of which, the "Baw Lua," is acknowledged to be the aboriginal race. They are found chiefly in the Maing Loongyee valley, and here number about nine thousand.

The Heri-rud Valley.—Dr. Aitchison, naturalist to the Afghan Delimitation Commission, states that the valley of the Heri-rud is extremely fertile, producing magnificent crops of wheat, barley, cotton, grapes, melons and the mulberry tree. Among the trees grown are *Pinus halepensis*, an ash and two elms. The country appears barren and arid in winter, but in spring is covered with

¹ This department is edited by W. N. LOCKINGTON, Philadelphia.